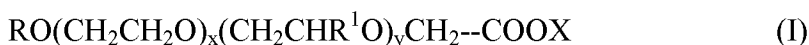


Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A well servicing composition flowable and pumpable at 5° to 20°C. comprising a continuous oil phase in admixture with a quantity of a disperse aqueous phase of a w/o invert type which optionally contains at least one dissolved auxiliary, dispersed auxiliary, or combinations thereof selected from the group consisting of thickeners, fluid loss additives, wetting agents, fine-particle weighting agents, salts, alkali reserves and biocides, wherein, the composition contains the ether carboxylic acid of compound of formula:



wherein, R is a saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched alkyl or alkenyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms, x is a number from 1 to 20 and y is 0 or a number from 1 to 20, provided that the sum of x and y is at least 1 and at most 25, R¹ is an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms and X comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, monovalent cations and polyvalent cations wherein the oil phase comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of

(a) carboxylic acid esters of formula: R'--COO--R" (II) where R' is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched alkyl group containing 5 to 23 carbon atoms and R" is an alkyl group containing 1 to 22 carbon atoms, which may be saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched,

(b) α-olefins, internal olefins, poly-α-olefins, or combinations thereof,

(c) water-insoluble, symmetrical or nonsymmetrical ethers of monohydric alcohols of natural or synthetic origin which contain 1 to 24 carbon atoms,

(d) water-insoluble alcohols of formula: R'''--OH (III) where R''' is a saturated, unsaturated, linear or branched alkyl group containing 8 to 24 carbon atoms,

(e) carbonic acid diesters,

(f) paraffins, and

(g) acetals.

22. (Cancelled)

Claims 23-30 (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim 21, which contains at least one aqueous phase and one oil phase, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an emulsifier comprises the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I).

32. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim 21, ~~wherein an~~ comprising a water-in-oil or oil-in-water emulsion wherein said emulsifier ~~in the well servicing composition which forms a water in oil or oil in water emulsion~~ comprises the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I).

33. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 21 comprising: a water-based emulsion system which contains at least one ester of saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched monocarboxylic acids containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms with monohydric, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alcohols containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms in an oil phase.

34. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 21, comprising a drilling fluid system which contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of linear alpha-olefins, internal olefins, and paraffins in the oil phase.

35. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I), comprises an ether carboxylic acid in which y is 0.

36. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I), comprises an ether carboxylic acid in which x is a number from 1 to 15.

37. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I) is present in quantities of 0.1 to 25% by weight, based on the weight of the well servicing composition.

38. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 21, wherein the well servicing composition additionally comprises free fatty acids.

39. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim ~~[[36]]~~ 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I) comprises an ether carboxylic acid wherein ~~[[X]]~~ x is a number of from 1 to 10.

40. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim ~~[[36]]~~ 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I) comprises an ether carboxylic acid wherein ~~[[X]]~~ x is a number of from 1 to 8.

41. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 21, wherein the ether carboxylic ~~[[acids]]~~ acid of formula (I) is present in a quantity of from 0.1 to 10% by weight.

42. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I) is present in a quantity of from 0.1 to 5% by weight.

43. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 36, wherein y is 0.

44. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim 32 ~~containing~~ comprising from 1% to 15% by weight of the ether carboxylic acid based on the weight of the oil phase.

45. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim 21, wherein the ether carboxylic acid of formula (I) comprises an ether carboxylic acid present as a salt.

46. (Previously Presented) The well servicing composition of claim 21 comprising a liquid phase containing from 10% to 30% water and from 70% to 90% oil based on the liquid phase as a whole.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim ~~[[47]]~~ 21, wherein (b) comprises compounds containing 12 to 30 carbon atoms in the molecule.

49. (Currently Amended) The well servicing composition of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 21, wherein said oil phase comprises at least 50% by weight of the oil phase of a mixture of compounds (a) to (g).